

Atty Dkt. No.: CLON-037CON  
USSN: 09/839,696

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow claims 14-17, as well as newly introduced Claims 38 to 57, the only claims pending and currently under examination in this application.

Claim 14 has been amended has been amended to clarify the claim language and include the feature of loading the resin with a metal ion other than calcium ion, support for this amendment being found in the working examples, and page, line 25. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to clarify the claim language. New claims 38 to 57 find support in the specification and originally pending claims. As the above amendments introduce no new matter, their entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. In view of the above amendment to claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection may be withdrawn.

Finally, claims 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), over Mantovarra et al. and Porath et al. As amended, all of claims 14 to 17 and newly added claims 38 to 44 dependent thereon include a step of loading the carboxymethyl aspartate agarose with a metal ion other than calcium. As neither Mantovarra nor Porath individually teach a method that includes loading a carboxymethyl aspartate agarose with a metal other than calcium, this rejection may be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added claims 45 to 57, these claims are directed to a an alternative synthesis protocol neither taught nor suggested in the cited references.

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### CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance.

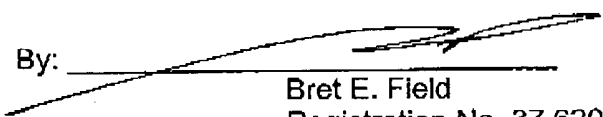
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6.7.04

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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